

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system, comprising:

5 a base;

a display coupled to the base, such that the display is rotatable relative to the base about an axis of rotation;

a clutch disposed at the axis of rotation, wherein the clutch is engageable to resist rotation of the display
10 relative to the base about the axis of rotation; and

an operator coupled to the clutch and actuatable by a single hand of a user to facilitate simultaneous disengagement of the clutch and rotation of the display relative to the base about the axis of rotation.

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2. The system of claim 1, wherein the operator comprises a switch having first and second positions, the first position having the clutch engaged to provide a full resistive force against rotation of the display relative to
20 the base, and the second position having the clutch disengaged to substantially remove all of the resistive force.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the operator is mounted to the display at a position offset from the axis of rotation.

5 4. The system of claim 1, comprising a computer system having the base, the display, the clutch, and the operator.

5. An electronic device, comprising:
10 a rotatable display having an axis of rotation;
 a rotational resistance mechanism coupled to the rotatable display to provide a resistive force against rotation of the rotatable display about the axis of rotation; and
15 a resistance release coupled to the rotational resistance mechanism and engageable at a position offset from the axis of rotation.

6. The electronic device of claim 5, comprising a
20 component housing coupled to the rotatable display at the axis of rotation.

7. The electronic device of claim 5, wherein the resistance release is disposed at an edge of the rotatable display opposite from the axis of rotation.

5 8. The electronic device of claim 5, wherein the rotational resistance mechanism comprises a clutch mechanism.

9. The electronic device of claim 5, wherein the
10 resistance release is switchable between first and second positions, the first position having all of the resistive force, the second position substantially removing all of the resistive force.

15 10. A method of providing an electronic device, comprising:

providing a rotatable display having an axis of rotation;

providing a rotational resistance mechanism coupleable
20 to the rotatable display to provide a resistive force against rotation of the rotatable display about the axis of rotation; and

providing a resistance release coupleable to the rotational resistance mechanism and engageable at a position offset from the axis of rotation.

5 11. The method of claim 10, comprising providing a component housing coupleable to the rotatable display at the axis of rotation.

12. The method of claim 11, comprising assembling the
10 rotatable display with the component housing.

13. The method of claim 10, comprising mounting the resistance release at an edge of the rotatable display opposite from the axis of rotation.

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14. The method of claim 10, wherein providing the rotational resistance mechanism comprises mounting a clutch mechanism at the axis of rotation.

20 15. The method of claim 10, wherein providing the resistance release comprises providing an electrical operator that is switchable between first and second positions, the second position substantially removing all of

the resistive force to facilitate rotation of the rotatable display about the axis of rotation.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein providing the
5 resistance release comprises providing a mechanical operator that is switchable between first and second positions, the second position substantially removing all of the resistive force to facilitate rotation of the rotatable display about the axis of rotation.

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17. A method of operating an electronic device,
comprising:

engaging a rotational resistance mechanism about an
axis of rotation of a rotatable display to oppose rotation
15 of the display relative to a base portion; and

switchably releasing the rotational resistance
mechanism in response to user actuation of an operator
mounted at a position offset from the axis of rotation and
coupled to the rotational resistance mechanism.

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18. The method of claim 17, wherein engaging the
rotational resistance mechanism comprises actuating a clutch
mechanism to resist rotation of the rotatable display.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein switchably releasing comprises electrically disengaging the rotational resistance mechanism.

5 20. The method of claim 17, wherein switchably releasing comprises mechanically disengaging the rotational resistance mechanism.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein switchably
10 releasing comprises substantially removing a resistive force provided by the rotational resistance mechanism.

22. The method of claim 17, wherein switchably releasing comprises simultaneously releasing the rotational
15 resistance mechanism and rotating the rotatable display about the axis of rotation with a single hand of a user.

23. An electronic device, comprising:
means for engaging a rotational resistance mechanism
20 about an axis of rotation of a rotatable display; and
means for switchably releasing the rotational resistance mechanism at a position offset from the axis of rotation.

24. A portable computer, comprising:

a component housing;

a display;

a hinge assembly coupling the display to the component
5 housing, wherein the hinge assembly comprises a clutch
assembly; and

a clutch operator coupled to the clutch assembly and
having a first position at which the clutch assembly is
engaged and a second position at which the clutch assembly
10 is substantially disengaged, wherein the clutch operator is
mounted away from an axis of rotation of the hinge assembly
to facilitate a single-handed operation of the clutch
operator and rotation of the display.

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